

For the Record...

Sept.

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Welcome to the fourth issue of "For the Record..."

The purpose of this publication from the Office of Marketing and Communications is to keep the campus community informed of the latest actions, deliberations and discussions of the YSU Board of Trustees. "For the Record..." will be distributed after the regular quarterly meetings of the board. Comments and suggestions may be sent to Ron Cole, manager of news and information services, at 330-941-3285 or racole.01@ysu.edu.

YSU trustees heard positive news on enrollment, faculty and staff grant activity, the university's financial status and fund-raising efforts during quarterly meetings in September. The board also discussed the future management of the bookstore and learned more about plans for the Youngstown Early College proposal for the campus. Millicent S. Counts was sworn in as a new trustee, and Charity Anne Pappas took the oath as the newest student member of the board.

Here's a summary of the board's actions and discussions at the Sept. 24 full board meeting, as well as committee meetings on Sept. 10 and 11.

Board of Trustees, Sept. 24

Chander M. Kohli, chair

Charles B. Cushwa, vice chair

The board met in Tod Hall:

- Millicent S. Counts was sworn in as a new member of the board. Charity Anne Pappas, a YSU sophomore, was sworn in as a new student member of the board.
- YSU President David C. Sweet updated the board on several matters in a presentation that mirrored the report he gave to the Ohio Board of Regents when that body met at YSU earlier in the month. Sweet said YSU, as an open access university, is critical to the future economic development of the Mahoning Valley. He said he believes YSU is the best public university in Northeast Ohio and beyond to get an undergraduate education. YSU is a national model for student-centered comprehensive universities, he said. He talked about the quality of YSU students, academic programs, campus environment and the quality of management of the institution. He said all of that has been accomplished with a moderate tuition. "We have a lot of good news here, and it's always good when we can share it," he said.
- Tony Atwater, provost and vice president for academic affairs, reported that the Ohio Board of Regents has approved a new bachelor's degree for YSU in forensic sciences and a new associate of technical study in business technology. He reported on the increase in external grants received by YSU faculty and staff. He also reported on the

new Undergraduate Research Awards Program, which provides \$500 research awards for undergraduate students to initiate and carry out research under the supervision of faculty.

- Cynthia Anderson, vice president for student affairs, reported on the fall enrollment increase. She presented a chart that showed enrollment up 9.1 percent since fall 2000. “It takes an entire campus to grow enrollment,” she said.

The board also:

- Approved a resolution to award an honorary degree to Jeanette Grasselli Brown of Chagrin Falls, a member and former chair of the Ohio Board of Regents. She will receive the degree at winter commencement in December.
- Passed a new policy concerning cost-sharing and over-matching on external grants and contracts. Atwater said during committee discussions that the policy is a “procedural cleanup” and enhances accountability on grants that come to the university. The policy ensures that YSU’s interests are protected in terms of cost-sharing, he said.
- Voted for a new policy for the payment of indirect costs on external grants and contracts.
- Approved a new bachelor of general studies degree. The degree provides a flexible mechanism for students to get a bachelor’s degree, especially those who have interrupted their college careers for work or personal reasons, Atwater said during committee discussions. “It meets the needs of a demonstrable market of people who have some college but no degree and are looking to finish up,” he said.
Sweet, citing a large billboard in Boardman touting the degree-completion programs at Malone College, told trustees that such programs have become popular and competitive. “This is a step to make sure we’re responsive to that market,” he said. “It really fills a tremendous void in our community,” Trustee F.W. Knecht said. The new degree now goes to the Ohio Board of Regents for final approval.
- Approved a resolution recognizing the master of science in nursing-nurse anesthetist track. In May, the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs granted the maximum accreditation status to the program.
- Accepted development gifts totaling \$2.7 million for the period of April 1 to June 30, 2003.
- Approved a resolution to name the DeBartolo York Multi-Purpose Sports Forum in the new Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center. John and Denise DeBartolo York gave \$1.5 million to the recreation center campaign. “We are most grateful for their investment,” Paul McFadden, development director, said in committee meetings about the gift.
- Approved a measure to transfer \$3.2 million from the general fund stabilization reserve fund to the quasi-endowment operating reserve. The transfer will raise the level of the quasi-endowment operating reserve to \$5.8 million or 5 percent of the fiscal year 2004 general operating fund budget.
- Voted to modify the unrestricted fund budget for fiscal year 2004. The general fund end-of-year revenue for fiscal year 2003 totaled \$3.1 million. The administration will allocate the \$3.1 million to 10 projects, including \$1.2 million for the strategic initiative fund, \$616,824 for research incentive accounts, \$400,000 for bad debt and \$329,337 for course fee accounts.

In committee discussions, Terry Ondreyka, vice president of financial affairs, told board members that such budget adjustments in the past were made without

reporting the actions to the board. "I really think the administration needs to be commended for providing this greater transparency," Trustee Larry E. Esterly said.

Ondreyka also said that as enrollment grows and tuition increases, the amount of bad debt on unpaid accounts also increases. That's why \$400,000 more is being allocated to bad debt. Anderson, vice president for student affairs, said her office is working on new collection procedures that will cut down on unpaid student bills. "Our strategy will be to educate students and make sure they know there are going to be ramifications," she said.

- Voted for a resolution to approve the interfund transfers for end of fiscal year 2003.
- Agreed to increase the fee for the YSU-St. Elizabeth Health Center School of Nurse Anesthetists program from \$5,000 a year to \$5,400 a year. YSU charges students and reimburses St. Elizabeth.
- Trustee Larry E. Esterly announced that the board's Audit Subcommittee and Finance and Facilities Committee had approved a resolution calling for the internal audit function of the university to be contracted with an external audit firm beginning fiscal year 2005, which begins July 1, 2004.
- Voted to endorse the university's fiscal year 2005-2010 state capital improvements budget project list. The state approves a capital budget every two years. YSU and other public universities submit requests to the Ohio Board of Regents, which sends the requests to the governor.

Requests for the 2005-06 biennium amount to \$9 million and include \$2.75 million for acquisition/demolition of property in areas surrounding campus, \$900,000 to upgrade plumbing, electrical, heating, air conditioning and other systems in campus buildings, \$500,000 to replace portions of the deteriorated steam distribution lines on campus, \$2.9 million to allow for system-wide technology upgrades on campus and \$900,000 to restore deteriorated brick surfaces on some campus buildings. The requests also include \$1 million for the new campus recreation and wellness center. The \$12 million center will be constructed solely with private funds, but the university is including a \$1 million capital request as a precautionary measure to cover any unexpected additional expenses, said Dennis Clouse, YSU director of planning and construction. If the money isn't used for the rec center, it will be reallocated elsewhere on campus, he said.

- Authorized the use of eminent domain proceedings for the property at 222 Adams St. and 217 Adams St. in the event that the university cannot acquire the property through discussion with the property owners. The property is on the site of the proposed extension of Harrison Field.
- Passed a resolution to ratify faculty and staff appointments.
- Approved a measure to modify the policy concerning contracts for coaches in intercollegiate athletics. John Habat, vice president for administration, said the modifications included minor additions and clarifications.
- Unanimously voted in favor of a resolution that would provide waivers to the policy requiring that formal searches be conducted in hiring administrative and executive officers of the university. Esterly abstained.

During committee discussion of the resolution, Habat said the requirement for a national search would be waived only in exceptional circumstances when, for instance, a current university employee is clearly qualified for the position. A waiver in such instances would save the time and resources spent on a search, Habat said. President Sweet said that a national search would still be conducted in most cases.

Trustee H.S. Wang said if an internal candidate is so outstanding, then he or she should be able to withstand a national search. "Special circumstances have to be very

special, otherwise we miss the chance to bring someone from elsewhere” to campus, he said. Trustee Charles B. Cushwa said the policy requiring a national search was in response to “cronyism” in the past. “This is almost sacred ground ... that we avoid that cronyism that existed in the past,” he added.

- Set upcoming meetings dates as follows: 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2003; 3 p.m. Friday, March 19, 2004; and 3 p.m. Friday, June 18, 2004.

Finance and Facilities Committee, Sept. 11

Larry E. Esterly, chair

Larry D. DeJane, vice chair

- Ondreyka reviewed a report comparing the budgeted to the actual general operating fund for fiscal year 2003.
Ondreyka pointed out that revenues exceeded spending by \$4.3 million in the fiscal year, but \$1.15 million of that is for outstanding purchase orders. He said tuition revenue was about 4 percent higher than budgeted due mostly to increased enrollment and tuition. He also pointed out that private gifts increased significantly because of a \$1.5 million donation by John and Denise York for the proposed recreation and wellness center on campus. On the spending side, Ondreyka said fringe benefit costs of \$19.7 million were 5 percent higher than the budgeted amount and 16 percent higher than the previous fiscal year. The reason, he said, is increasing healthcare costs, retirement payments and tuition remissions.
Ondreyka also reported that YSU’s projected Senate Bill 6 ratio is 3.5 for fiscal year 2003. The ratio measures a university’s fiscal health. The maximum score is 5. Scores of 1.75 or less for two consecutive years would place a university in fiscal watch. YSU’s ratio was 2.2 in fiscal year 1999. Ondreyka called the 3.5 mark “very, very good news,” especially considering the difficult budget year.
- President Sweet told committee members that “discussions continue” regarding the reopening of the Wick Pollock Inn.
- Sweet and George McCloud, special assistant to the president and dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, reported on improvements to the corridor leading from University Courtyard Apartments and the Bliss Hall addition to campus. McCloud said various public art projects are planned for the area.
- John Hyden, director of facilities, reported that design and development of the new recreation and wellness center should be completed in December. He said architects on the project as seeking input from a student advisory panel. “We’re getting down into some of the real fine details,” he said.
- Habat gave copies of the new Campus Emergency Procedures Manual to committee members. “How appropriate that you’re receiving this on 9/11,” he commented. The manual details the appropriate responses and preparations for various campus emergencies, from fires to tornadoes.
- Hyden reported that YSU, like mostly everyone else in the Mahoning Valley, has suffered some flooding due to summer rains. “This summer has been particularly brutal on us,” he added. He said the city’s infrastructure is inadequate to handle such large volumes of rain in such short periods of time.
- Don Cagigas of the United Way of the Mahoning Valley reported on the progress of a committee he chairs that is investigating the location and management of the YSU bookstore. Cagigas said the committee received proposals from three operators interested in managing the campus bookstore – Barnes & Noble, Follet and the YSU Bookstore, which currently runs the store. Each made presentations to the committee.

Cagigas said the committee does not have the financial expertise to evaluate the three proposals. He recommended that the committee seek outside help to get “a clear and objective evaluation.” He said he will seek out a consultant who will do the evaluation for free. He also said that “there are some very strong feelings that are running through the committee,” but that “in my judgment this is what is needed.”

Internal Affairs Committee, Sept. 11

Joseph S. Nohra, chair

John L. Pogue, vice chair

- Trustee Joseph S. Nohra began the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Nohra noted that he and many other members of the board and administration were in committee meetings the morning that news of the attacks came.
- The committee reviewed a report from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity showing the number of employees on campus broken down by race and gender. The report showed that the number of full-time minority employees has gone from 120 in 2000 to 139 in 2002.

The report also showed there were 1,046 campus employees at the end of fiscal year 2003, compared to 1,016 at the end of last fiscal year. “It still surprises me that full-time employment continues to increase,” Nohra said. Sweet responded: “But so does enrollment.” Sweet noted that enrollment has increased 9 percent, while employment has gone up 3 percent. Habat said that the number of budgeted employee positions will drop from 1,509 in 2002-03 to 1,485 in 2003-04.

- Tom Maraffa, special assistant to the president, told the committee that Jimmy Myers, director of the Office of Equity and Diversity at the University of Michigan, has been selected as the new director in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at YSU. “He’s a very qualified candidate,” Maraffa said. “I think we have identified an excellent candidate,” Sweet said. Maraffa said the university is awaiting a signed contract before deciding on a starting date.
- The committee also reviewed, without discussion, the minutes of the Aug. 14 meeting of the University Diversity Council, and a report on minority business activity. The report showed that \$1.25 million (6.2 percent) of \$20.1 million in purchases of goods and services in fiscal year 2003 went to minority businesses.
- Ron Stollo, executive director of intercollegiate athletics, updated committee members on several athletics-related items involving the university’s football, soccer, golf and tennis teams. He noted that football season ticket sales were down slightly, but corporate sponsorships were up 11 percent and revenue overall was up. He also noted that the football program rated seventh in the nation among NCAA Division I-AA programs in terms of graduation rates. “There are a lot of people who deserve a lot of credit about that across campus,” he added.

External Relations Committee, Sept. 10

Charles B. Cushwa, chair

Millicent S. Counts, vice chair

- Paul McFadden, development director, and Sweet updated the board on preparations for the YSU Centennial Campaign. McFadden said the university has hired Marts and Lundy, a philanthropic consulting service, to help in planning the fund-raising effort.

“They have provided an extraordinarily valuable database” of alumni and prospective donors, he said.

McCloud told the committee that Marts and Lundy also has conducted a workshop for deans about the upcoming campaign. A Needs Assessment Committee that will identify and prioritize potential goals for the campaign is expected to report their findings to Sweet in December.

- The committee reviewed the quarterly report from the development office. The report showed that \$7 million was raised in fiscal year 2003, compared to \$1.9 million in the previous fiscal year, due mostly to nearly \$6.6 million in major gifts to the campaign for the recreation and wellness center.
- McFadden reported that the university’s request for \$800,000 from the Kresge Foundation for the recreation center campaign will be considered by the Kresge board in December. Kresge specializes in helping institutions complete fund-raising campaigns. “This gives us not only the money but the national notoriety that we are seeking to achieve,” Trustee Cushwa said.
- Shannon Tirone, director of alumni relations, said her office continues efforts to develop and expand alumni chapters in Columbus, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. “Our ultimate goal is to bring (the alumni in those regions) closer to the institution . . . to bring the university word out on the road,” she said.
- Walt Ulbricht, executive director of marketing and communications, distributed the new alumni magazine to committee members.

He also updated committee members on Academic Challenge, a high school quiz show sponsored by YSU and WYTV News Channel 33. The show, which started last spring with eight high school teams, will include 36 high school teams this fall. The shows will air 7:30 p.m. Saturdays on Channel 33, hosted by Stan Boney.

Ulbricht also reported that the university’s “Success Stories” advertising campaign is now focusing on successful alumni. Ulbricht also reported that YSU’s advertising push in the Cleveland market appears to be paying off. He gave committee members a chart showing that 94 Cuyahoga County residents are enrolled in YSU in fall 2003, compared to 62 the previous fall. Cushwa said increasing enrollment outside the Mahoning Valley points up the importance of having new on-campus housing. McCloud said the new recreation center also could help attract students from outside the region. “My sense is that we’re doing the right things, and we’re doing them effectively,” McCloud said.

- Gary Sexton, director of WYSU-FM, reported on several items, including a new partnership with Austintown Movies, the Pops at the Ballpark event, a new e-mail report that the station is sending to members and sponsorship of the Youngstown Peace Race on Oct. 5. He said he also is continuing to study the possibility of raising the height of the station’s antenna. He also talked about ongoing discussions with WKSU-FM at Kent State University concerning the two station’s signals.
- Under new business, Sweet said he is asking former trustee Eugenia Atkinson to serve on the board for PBS Channels 45/49.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Sept. 10

F.W. Knecht, chair

H.S. Wang, vice chair

- John White, chair of the anthropology and sociology department, made a presentation called “Who Needs ‘Indiana Jones’?: Continuing Archeological Research at YSU.” White said that he has overseen 64 archeological digs in his 32 years at YSU,

including explorations in Israel, Costa Rica and Ireland. He detailed his work exhuming bodies from an old Quaker burial site in Damascus, Ohio, and he talked about a current dig at an old blast furnace site in Mill Creek Park. "It allows students to get out of the classroom and work in the community on projects that are beneficial to the community," he said.

- Robert Bolla, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, updated the committee on plans for the Early College High School initiative. Youngstown Early College is a partnership between YSU and the Youngstown City School District to develop a high school on the YSU campus to open fall 2004. The school, which would have no more than 400 students, is part of a plan by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide high school students with college experiences and course credit.

Richard Bretz, special assistant to Provost Tony Atwater, said early college isn't High school, and it isn't college. "It's a third way of looking at doing things," he said. Bretz said the Youngstown Early College could be a national model program.

A representative from Knowledge Works, which is dispersing funds from the Gates Foundation in Ohio, said there are many questions about the program, including governance (who owns and operates the school), curriculum, student development and financing. But, he said none of these challenges are insurmountable.

Ben McGee, Youngstown schools superintendent, emphasized that the financial questions are workable. "We're not from Mars," he said. "I've seen this work. It's not something that is so new and so risky that it can't work."

Trustees, particularly Esterly, had many questions, including how this would impact YSU faculty, the social impact of bring high school age students to campus and funding. "That is crucial to any decision that we make," Esterly said about how the program will be funded.

Knecht said there's no question that the Youngstown region is under-educated and that a program such as this could help, but he also said YSU can't get into a program that it can't afford.

- Paul Kobulnicky, new executive director of the Maag Library, outlined his vision for the library. He said the campus library will remain committed to working with faculty to develop innovative programs to help students think creatively. He said YSU must maintain its core library collect. He said Maag is "a state-of-the-art library vintage 1975" and that it needs comprehensively renewed. "While education takes place in the classroom, learning takes place in the library," he added.
- Provost Atwater presented to the committee a new organizational chart for the Metro College. Atwater said that the Metro College has had a number of missions in the past that haven't been a defined and strategically-placed as they should have been.

The new structure breaks the college into three major function areas: continuing education, workforce development and adult degree completion. "It's amazing how long it has taken to get to this point," Trustee Cushwa said.

- Atwater updated the committee on the status of the Cushwa Center for Business Development at YSU. The center will be discontinued and the center's resources will be redirected to create the Charles B. Cushwa Jr./Commercial Shearing Inc. Graduate Student Scholarship/Fellowship Fund at YSU. Atwater said details of the new program are still being discussed, but he said three to five fellowships will be awarded annually and that the fellowships will be tied directly to industry. Atwater also emphasized that the Small Business Development Center at YSU will remain intact.

Trustee Cushwa, whose family established an endowment that started the Cushwa Center in 1978, said that giving faculty graduate fellows will have a significant impact on the economic development available to the community. “Basically what we decided to do was to hire Indians and not chiefs,” he said.

- The committee reviewed a report from Peter Kasvinsky, dean of graduate studies and research, that showed YSU faculty and staff received \$5.89 million in grants in fiscal year 2003, up from \$4.37 million in fiscal year 2002. It’s the highest amount in the university’s history.
- Committee members also reviewed a list of new chairperson appointments and re-appointments, an update on accreditations and programs and a new agreement with Cuyahoga Community College about a collaborative associate and bachelor’s degree programs in nursing.
- Bill Countryman, interim executive director of enrollment management, reported that fall semester enrollment is up 1.3 percent, from 12,698 last fall to 12,858 this fall. Full-time equivalent enrollment is up 1.5 percent, he said. “I think it is everything the board had hoped for, and I commend you,” Trustee Esterly said. Countryman gave trustees a report that showed the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services had the biggest enrollment gain, up nearly 13 percent, followed by the Beeghly College of Education (nearly 6 percent). “It appears as if health and human services is carrying the whole university,” Trustee Nohra said. Sweet said accolades should be spread throughout the university. “This is very good news,” Trustee Wang said.

Maraffa, special assistant to the president, outlined for trustees new methods the administration will use to project enrollment in the future. “It gives us a detailed comparison ... and provides a standard for future efforts in enrollment and recruitment,” he said.

- Anderson, vice president for student affairs, presented a report showing occupancy of university housing. The report shows 1,128 students living on campus this fall semester, including 408 in the new University Courtyard Apartments on Wick Oval. Sweet estimated that about 250 students live in non-university housing in the near North Side. He said the university will soon begin preliminary planning for a possible second phase of the University Courtyard complex.
- The committee also reviewed information on various student activities on campus and received an update on various orientation programs on campus.
- Under new business, Sweet told committee members that he led his first meeting as chair of the Inter-University Council of Ohio. Discussions at the meeting focused on Gov. Taft’s new Commission on Higher Education and the Economy, the capital budget and tuition.